International co-operation in Agriculture Sector

1505. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the salient features of the international co-operation in the field of agriculture; and

(b) to what extent this co-operation grew during the last 2 years and what steps are being taken for further integrated growth of international co-operation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The thrust of international cooperation in the field of agriculture, through multilateral and bi-lateral route, is to further strengthen Indian agriculture and assist developing countries in capacity building under South-South Cooperation. The cooperation in the field of agriculture is being pursued through our membership and role in the organizations such as FAO and WFP and the mechanism of Memorandum of Understanding/Agreements/Work Plans signed with the interested countries.

India's advocacy role in FAO and Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research (CGIAR) and assistance to developing and least developed countries have been appreciated internationally.

(b) More than 20 MoUs/Agreements/Work Plans have been signed during the last two years in the field of agriculture and allied activities.

Pursuit of International Cooperation is guided by the national interest in the field of agriculture. In order to make cooperation comprehensive and holistic the government encourage trade and promotes business cooperation. Cooperation with countries and institutions which have technology relevant to the country is also encouraged.

Role of Central Government in agricultural marketing

1506. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the role Central Government is playing in the field of Agricultural Marketing; and

(b) the expectations of the State Governments from the Centre and to what extent and in what manner the Central Government proposes to meet those expectations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Since agriculture is a State subject, the Central Government is playing the role of a facilitator to the State Governments/Union Territories in the field of agricultural marketing on policies for development, improvement of agricultural marketing infrastructure and for formulation of uniform marketing practices to ensure better price realization by the farmers.

(b) The expectations of the State Governments are for technical advice and support by the Central Government for strengthening the efforts made by them for development/strengthening of